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(54) METHOD FOR PRODUCING OPTICALLY ACTIVE ALPHA-AMINO ACID AND OPTICALLY ACTIVE ALPHA-AMINO ACID AMIDE

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a method for efficiently producing an optically active alpha-amino acid and an optically active alpha-amino acid amide.

SOLUTION: This method for producing the optically active alpha-amino acid and the optically active alpha-amino acid amide, comprising bringing the optically impure α -amino acid amide into contact with microbial cells having an asymmetric hydrolysis ability or their treated products in an aqueous solvent, replacing the water used as the solvent by at least one solvent selected from ≥ 3 C linear, branched or cyclic alcohols and further preferentially depositing the optically active alpha-amino acid from the obtained alcohol solution. The optically active alpha-amino acid amide-containing alcohol solution obtained after the

separation of the optically active alpha-amino acid is recycled to the racemization reaction process.

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